

405 and 407 Goldenrod Ave
Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

Rita Goldberg, Chair
Newport Beach Arts Commission
c/o Tim Hetherton, Library Services Director
City of Newport Beach
1000 Avocado Ave
Newport Beach, CA 92660

September 4, 2014

Dear Ms. Goldberg and Arts Commission Members:

We are writing with regard to the commemorative plaque for artists Rex Brandt and Joan Irving. Our two houses rest on their former property near the Goldenrod Footbridge. We are both quite interested in the arts and are wholeheartedly in support of this recognition of their accomplishments and talent.

We appreciate very much receiving Tim Hetherton's letter of August 25, 2014, explaining the plaque and asking for our feedback on its design and placement. As neighbors, we have discussed this several times and herewith offer our thoughts.

Following are concerns about the boulder/plaque concept as we understand it:

1. The boulder with plaque, although thought to coordinate with the one at the Corona Del Mar bluff, doesn't really fit in with its surroundings. The bluff overlooks the beach and jetties, thus the boulder carries through the rock theme. No such theme exists near the footbridge overlooking Bayside Drive.
2. The boulder, as placed in the photos, is somewhat reminiscent of a cemetery, not a concept we assume you desire.
3. The end of Goldenrod Avenue near the footbridge and our homes is not particularly well maintained. There are large empty spots where vegetation once was and is no longer, at least partly due to the many dogs passing by each day. Further, the trash receptacle and the traffic sign there are in need of cleaning and/or replacement. In short, in its current condition, it is not a fitting place for honoring the Brandts, unless there is a clear and continuing plan for improvement and maintenance of the area.

Following are ideas/recommendations:

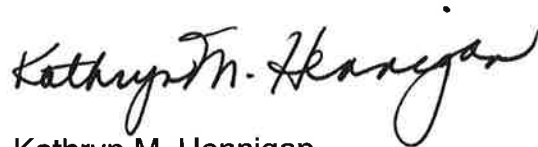
1. Improvement of the area, especially in light of its historic designation. A low fence could help with the dog issue.
2. A different design for the plaque/holder: possibly in the form of an easel, or a simple plaque to be placed as described in #3 below. The plaque could be enhanced to include an etching of one of Mr. Brandt's local paintings.
3. There is a plaque on the right hand column of the footbridge explaining its history. Perhaps, in conjunction with the new historic designation, the columns could be refinished, and the existing plaque moved to the left column, while the new plaque honoring the Brandts could be placed on the right, closer to their home site. The place and height of such a plaque would make it conducive to being noticed and read by the general public as they pass by.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide input and participate in this endeavor. We are honored to dwell in a place with such a rich heritage.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Marcus
405 Goldenrod Ave



Kathryn M. Hennigan
407 Goldenrod Ave